

CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, we claim:

1. A locator device for indicating the relative location and behavior of a dog in a sporting field, said locator device comprising:

a housing carried by a dog;

a vibration switch disposed within said housing, said vibration switch comprising an enclosure whose sidewall is electrically conductive, said vibration switch comprising a mass member that is electrically conductive and disposed within said enclosure, said vibration switch comprising a first electrical contact disposed within said enclosure and a second electrical contact disposed within said enclosure, said first electrical contact and said second electrical contact electrically insulated from said sidewall; and

a communication device responsive to said vibration switch.

2. The locator device of Claim 1 further comprising a processing device in electrical communication with said vibration switch and said communication device, said processing device activating said communication device in response to said vibration switch.

3. The locator device of Claim 2 wherein said processing device performs the task of debouncing.

4. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said vibration switch is oriented such that the longitudinal axis of said vibration switch is substantially parallel to the backbone of an equipped dog.

5. The locator device of Claim 4 wherein said first electrical contact and said second electrical contact are disposed substantially on the longitudinal axis of said vibration switch.

6. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said sidewall of said enclosure of said vibration switch is electrically grounded.

7. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said vibration switch does not include a fluid-tight seal.

8. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said vibration switch includes a fluid-tight seal.

9. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said communication device is a sound generating device.

10. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said communication device comprises a transmitter/receiver combination, whereby said receiver is accessible by a handler.

11. The locator device of Claim 1 wherein said housing includes a collar bracket that receives a dog's collar such that said locator device is carried by the dog.

12. A locator device for indicating the relative location and behavior of a dog in a sporting field, said locator device comprising:

a means for attaching said locator device to a dog;

a means for detecting the intensity of the movement of a dog; and

a means for indicating the intensity of the movement of a dog responsive to said means for detecting the intensity of the movement of a dog;

13. The locator device of Claim 12 further comprising a means for debouncing.

14. A locator device for indicating the relative location and behavior of a dog in a sporting field, said locator device comprising:

a housing carried by a dog

a vibration switch disposed within said housing, said vibration switch comprising a first electrical contact and a second electrical contact and an enclosure, said first electrical contact disposed at a first end of said enclosure, said second electrical contact disposed on an opposing second end of said enclosure, said first

electrical contact and said second electrical contact are further substantially disposed on the longitudinal axis of said vibration switch, whereby the longitudinal axis of said vibration switch is substantially parallel to the backbone of the equipped dog; and

a communication device that is responsive to said vibration switch.

15. The locator device of Claim 14 further comprising a processing device in electrical communication with said vibration switch and said communication device, said processing device activating said communication device in response to said vibration switch.

16. The locator device of Claim 15 wherein said processing device performs the task of debouncing.

17. The locator device of Claim 14 wherein said sidewall of said enclosure of said vibration switch is electrically grounded.

18. The locator device of Claim 14 wherein said vibration switch does not include a fluid-tight seal.

19. The locator device of Claim 14 wherein said vibration switch includes a fluid-tight seal.

20. The locator device of Claim 14 wherein said communication device is a sound generating device.

21. The locator device of Claim 14 wherein said communication device comprises a transmitter/receiver combination, whereby said receiver is accessible by a handler.

22. The locator device of Claim 14 wherein said housing includes a collar bracket that receives a dog's collar such that said locator device is carried by the dog.